

16 June 2022

Quentin Duthie

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Tēnā koe Quentin

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 18 May 2022 for the following information relating to the upgrade of the Hill Road in Belmont:

1. *Are there any outstanding issues to resolve such as with stormwater management, driveways or signage (I'm aware of the standard resurfacing phases)?*
2. *What were the complications that made the project take so much longer than expected, why was this, and what learnings have been gleaned? Include contracting, design and construction issues.*
3. *Please provide a summary of the overall cost of the project, compared to what was budgeted/estimated prior, and how the additional costs have been paid for (whether council budget, or by contractors).*
4. *Please provide copies of correspondence about this project - between officers, between officers and councillors, reports to management or council, between officers and contractors and between officers and residents. Limited to the second phase of this upgrade - (excluding the earlier upgrade a few years ago).*

Our responses to your requests are provided below.

*Are there any outstanding issues to resolve such as with stormwater management, driveways or signage (I'm aware of the standard resurfacing phases)?*

There are some minor remedials currently being undertaken – a re-sweep and line marking of the road following the chip seal resurfacing, and achieving grass strike and weed removal on berms/bank.

We are also currently reviewing the transition levels on one vehicle crossing which may require rework.

*What were the complications that made the project take so much longer than expected, why was this, and what learnings have been gleaned? Include contracting, design and construction issues.*

The Hill Road Reconstruction project took significantly longer than programmed and anticipated. The delays have come from numerous factors:

- Design changes because of underground service clashes (such as gas, Chorus, water and private drainage assets)

- More extensive road reconstruction due to unforeseen ground conditions
- Design changes to vehicle crossings for workability and to accommodate residents' requirements
- Resourcing of specialised subcontractors, suppliers and materials which are currently in very high demand, such as road surfacing crews, concrete, timber, and line marking
- Rework as needed, to ensure the workability and longevity of the new roading assets and layout

A number of these factors were unforeseen and are factors that are unavoidable should they present themselves in a project, such as underground service clashes, unforeseen ground conditions, and current market constraints and shortages (including covid-related delays and constraints). The potential need for design changes to vehicle crossings should have been identified and allowed for in the project design/programming, and more in-depth consultation with the effect property owners about their preferences/unique requirements may have further mitigated the need for design changes and/or late identification of the need for specialist subcontractors and materials. The need for rework unfortunately does occur at times, but this is largely outside of the Council's control.

*Please provide a summary of the overall cost of the project, compared to what was budgeted/estimated prior, and how the additional costs have been paid for (whether council budget, or by contractors).*

The estimated overall cost of the Hill Road upgrade was \$1,158,165.60, and the final actual cost was \$1,569,945.47. The additional cost was paid by Hutt City Council with a subsidy from New Zealand Transport Agency.

*Please provide copies of correspondence about this project - between officers, between officers and councillors, reports to management or council, between officers and contractors and between officers and residents. Limited to the second phase of this upgrade - (excluding the earlier upgrade a few years ago).*

The number of documents that fall within this part of your request is significant. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17 (f) of the LGOIMA, on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation. We ask that you refine your request, for example, to focus on communications covering a reduced time span.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales  
**Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy**